

Cruising Committee Annual Report

Clive Arnold

Well, if the saying 'time flies when you're having fun' is true, I must have had a really good time as Chairman of the Cruising Committee this year. It seems no time at all since we were planning the year's program, and we are now about to start planning next year's.

This year we introduced a few more overnight weekends away instead of the Sundowners, which have been regularly held for some years, as a means of encouraging people to use their boats for the whole weekend without having to go too far away. Typical destinations were: No1 dock, Quarantine Station, Shell [or Homestead] beach and Barker Inlet. These were generally well attended but I think there is still a demand for Sundowner type events and the committee will consider including some of these again next year.

The longer cruises have seen attendances in the range of what seems to be the norm, but rest assured there is always room in the anchorages for more Squadron boats! By the time you read this, there will have been a Squadron cruise-in-company to a new destination — Point Davenport. Judging from the number of people who don't know where it is, this would have been a good one to go along on, assuming you didn't. There are some very experienced folk in the Squadron's membership and it seems to me they are very willing to offer advice and help to the rest of us to get the most out of our cruising time. If you would like to see a cruise to a place near or far that has not been on the agenda before, please let me or one of the committee know and we'll see if we can organise it, and also have the benefit of someone familiar to lead and co-ordinate it.

The Birkenhead Tavern cruise was a great success once again in terms of numbers, if a little less so in terms of organisation on the Hotel's behalf, and we will address those issues in some detail before agreeing to go there again this year.

We had a number of interesting information nights again this year, with a variety of topics presented to appreciative audiences. If there is any particular topic you would like to suggest

for one of these evenings please let us know and we will do our best to arrange it.

The Youth trophy is a highlight of the calendar for us, and this year it was awarded jointly to the Capel family for their Pacific cruise in *Just Jane* and to Anthony Gates for his northern Australia cruise in *Kango Willgo*. This year the cruising committee is also planning to introduce cruising awards for cruises in more local waters, and details of these will be published in the near future. This will be a chance for some recognition for those who complete well conducted cruises but who do not have the time to go further afield.

As the result of a suggestion from Barry Allison, the Cruising Committee has undertaken to provide a map of the world on which will be detailed information on vessels of interest to Squadron Members and their recent positions. I am sure you will find this interesting and even thought-provoking.

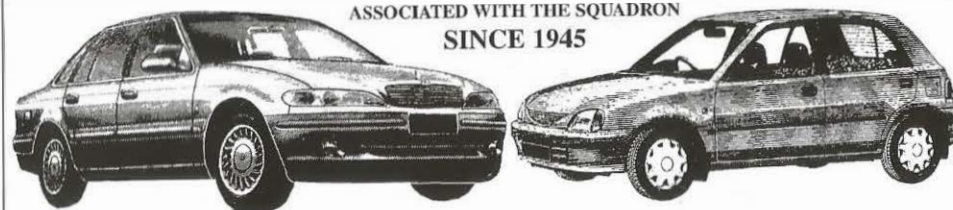
This year the Cruising Committee has been successful in gaining the support of a number of sponsors to help cover the costs of guest speakers, trophies, projection equipment, and so on. I would like to thank Klaus Becker, Fitch Rubber, B&H Australia, Mainstay Marine Electronics, Garmin, Pains Wessex and Citibank for their help and I hope that each of them will find an increased level of support from Squadron Members.

The Committee has my thanks for their support and enthusiasm through the year. Although we have a lot of fun doing it, there is still a serious side to it all and their duties as Committee members are treated accordingly. Bernie Matzat, Jamie Cowell and John Wickham are all continuing next year, but Harry Weinbergen will not be, due to other pressures. I am due to stand for re-election and will offer myself for the position.

Finally, thanks to all the Members and friends who supported our events this year, both on and off the water. We on the Committee have appreciated it and we look forward to seeing you again at an occasion in the near future. 

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